

COTA Meeting Minutes December 2008

Committee on Transfer and Articulation Missouri Department of Higher Education December 17, 2008

Participants: Evelyn Jorgenson (Chair), Jeanie Crain, Arlen Dykstra, Mike Grelle, Steve Kurtz, Julia Leeman, Pam McIntyre, Aaron Podolefsky, Kandis Smith, and Bruce Speck

COTA-AC Representative: Rita Gulstad

MDHE Staff: Jeremy Kintzel, Angelette Prichett, and B.J. White

Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Consent Item

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Kandis Smith and seconded by Dr. Aaron Podolefsky to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

II. Dual Credit Report Comments

Dr. Jorgenson stated that comments on the Dual Credit Report had been received from the public four-year chief academic officers. Dr. Smith stated that the comments were supportive of the report and its recommendations. Dr. Jorgenson summarized the comments and stated that it was important to remember that many dual credit courses were prerequisites and that maintain a high level of quality in these courses is essential.

Dr. Podolefsky suggested that "typically" be removed from the following policy language in order to make 18 graduate credits the standard.

Accordingly, high school instructors teaching general education courses shall typically have a master's degree that includes substantial study (usually a minimum of 18 semester hours) appropriate to the academic field in which they are teaching.

Dr. Smith commented that SACS uses 18 graduate hours in the content area and not just any masters degree. She inquired as to whether this was the intent of the Higher Learning Commission HLC. Dr. Jorgenson stated that this was, most likely, the HL's intent. Dr. Mike Grelle commented that the policy should allow for experts in an area to teach.

Dr. Steven Kurtz asked if the 18 hours were included of a masters program. Dr. Jeanie Crain stated that it was included. Drs. Jorgenson and Podolefsky concurred. Dr. Podolefsky then asked if it was necessary to have the 18 hour requirement. Dr. Arlen Dykstra stated that it was necessary because it provides a minimum standard of quality for dual credit instructors and that without that it would be difficult to ensure quality in dual credit. Dr. Crain noted that the current policy references HLC guidelines, but that the HLC no longer includes the 18 hours and asked if Missouri's dual credit policy should continue to include the 18 hour standard. After much discussion and consideration a consensus was reached to continue to include the 18 graduate credit hour standard and leave unchanged the above policy language.

Drs. Dykstra and Jorgenson recommended that COTA investigate NACEP accreditation as a way to improve dual credit programs.

COTA also endorsed Priority 7 of the Dual Credit Report to amend the dual credit policy to include the 90% threshold set for faculty qualifications at the February 2003 COTA meeting. The minutes of that meeting state:

Question nineteen [of a previous survey] requested the percentage of high school dual credit instructors that meet requirements for faculty teaching in institutions of higher education. The [COTA] members agreed that institutions should be permitted to use professional judgment in allowing faculty that do not meet all requirements for higher education instruction to teach dual credit courses in some cases.

Karen Herzog made the motion, seconded by Don Doucette, to establish an acceptability threshold of 90% for the faculty eligibility guideline. The motion carried unanimously.

COTA directed DHE staff to update the policy language to be presented to the CBHE for approval and to update the list of institutions in compliance with the dual credit policy (Priority 6).

III. 2009 Transfer Conference

Mr. B.J. White reported that there were approximately 70 registrants for the conference to be held on January 30, 2009 and that registration was expected to pick up after the new year. Mr. White reported that COTA-AC was planning to meet on January 8, 2009 with conference hotel staff to finalize the logistics of the conference.

COTA directed DHE staff to send out additional reminders about the conference and registration.

New Business

None

Other/Adjournment

Dr. Jorgenson announced that she was stepping down as Chair of COTA, but would remain on the committee. Effective January 1, 2009 the new Chair of COTA will be Dr. Aaron Podolefsky, President, University of Central Missouri.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next COTA meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia.